

REMARKS

The rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is obviated by appropriate amendment. Non-elected subject matter has been canceled from claims 12 and 17. Furthermore, claim 16 has been canceled.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims are definite within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter not described in the specification in such a way to enable the invention.

The rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant submits that the original specification and claims provide enabling support for the subject matter of claims 12-15. The burden is with the Patent Office to provide reasons and or examples in support of its belief to doubt the objective enablement of the claimed invention. Since the Examiner has provided no evidence in this regard, the invention is clearly enabled to those of ordinary skill in the art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Barbeyron et al. (U) or Potin et al. (W). Claims 12-14 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Potin et al. (W).

The rejections are obviated in part by appropriate amendment, and traversed in part. Neither Barbeyron et al. (U) nor Potin et al. (W) disclose or suggest a glycosyl hydrolase having an HCA score with the kappa-carrageenase of *Alteromonas carrageenovora* of at least about 75 % over the domain extending between amino acids 117 and 262 of the amino

acid sequence of *Alteromonas carrageenovora* that is SEQ ID NO: 6.

Furthermore, the HCA method compares the elements of the secondary structure of two proteins, and the Potin et al. (W) reference, which fails even to disclose the primary structure of a kappa-carrageenase from *Cytophaga*, cannot be said to anticipate the claims, as amended.

Accordingly, the claims as amended are novel over the prior art of record.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any final points remain that can be clarified by telephone, Dr. Patterson is encouraged to contact Applicant's attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner for Patents to extend the time for reply to the notice dated November 24, 2003, for three (3) months from February 24, 2004 to May 24, 2004. A duly completed credit card authorization form is attached to effect payment of the extension fee.

May 24, 2004

Respectfully submitted



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